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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,224	01/04/2002	Ryuji Uesugi	SHG-0201	3453

7590

04/11/2005

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EXAMINER

NILAND, PATRICK DENNIS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,224

Applicant(s)

UESUGI ET AL.

Examiner

Patrick D. Niland

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/4/05 has been entered.

Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-14 are pending with claims 7-14 having been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

2. Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. The instant claim recites "peratrole". It is not seen where this term is defined in the instant specification and the examiner cannot find its definition in the prior art nor in chemical dictionaries. It is unclear what "peratrole" is. If it is a tradename, it is further rejected as being indefinite for the reasons cited in MPEP 608.01(v).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 722179 A2 Wang et al. in view of US Pat. No. 5965645 Beck et al. and US Pat. No. 4550982 Hirai.

Wang discloses the instantly claimed compositions at page 2, lines 55-57; page 3, lines 1-12; page 6, lines 45-58, of which the ether plasticizers fall within the scope of the instantly claimed high boiling solvents and the plasticizer of the instant claim 2, page 7, lines 1-25; page 9, lines 5-

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55, of which the amounts encompass those of the instant claims when considered with the broader amounts recited in the prior disclosure of Wang; and the remainder of the document.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the instantly claimed combinations of ingredients and amounts thereof in the composition of Wang because they are encompassed by Wang and would have been expected to give the properties disclosed by Wang. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use diphenyl ether of column 6, lines 22-32 of Beck et al. and column 9, lines 1-5 of Hirai, these plasticizers are shown to plasticize polymers encompassed by Wang et al., and page 6, lines 46-51 of Wang encompasses this known plasticizer. No unexpected results are seen stemming from the differences between the Wang reference and the instant claims in a manner commensurate in scope with the Wang disclosure and the instant claims. The applicant argues that the art does not suggest the instantly claimed features. While the art does not specifically mention the instantly claimed boiling points and the instantly claimed required difference between the boiling points of the two solvents, compositions having these properties are encompassed by the patentee. As shown by the applicant, many of the solvents of the reference have the instantly claimed lower boiling points. The plasticizers of the reference are necessarily solvents for the binder by definition of "plasticizer". Furthermore, plasticizers are relatively non-volatile, i.e. of high boiling point. Many of the disclosed plasticizers would appear to have the instantly claimed higher boiling points based on the applicant's examples of such compounds. The amount of picking and choosing of the components and amounts thereof of the reference required to achieve the instantly claimed invention is small. Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness exists for the


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reasons stated above. The applicant's arguments do not overcome this obviousness rejection for the reasons stated above and it is therefore maintained.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick D. Niland whose telephone number is 571-272-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 10 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Patrick D. Niland
Primary Examiner
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